

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 176

BY REPRESENTATIVE POPE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA/DRIVER ED: Permits a child who is in at least the ninth grade and is less than 15 years of age to participate in the classroom instruction component of the driver education program operated by BESE and the state Dept. of Education

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:270(A) and R.S. 32:402.1(D), relative to the driver education  
3 and training program for children operated by the State Board of Elementary and  
4 Secondary Education and the state Department of Education; to permit a child who  
5 is in at least the ninth grade and is less than fifteen years of age to participate in the  
6 classroom instruction component of the program; to provide an effective date; and  
7 to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:270(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §270. Driver education and training program for children

11 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state  
12 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and  
13 Corrections, shall establish and operate a driver education and training program in  
14 each parish of this state for children who are fifteen years of age and older. The  
15 program shall consist of a course of not less than eight hours of actual driving  
16 experience and thirty hours of classroom instruction. A child who is in at least the  
17 ninth grade and is less than fifteen years of age may participate in the classroom  
18 instruction component of the program. The State Board of Elementary and  
19 Secondary Education shall provide written notice to each city, parish, and local

1 school board of the requirements of ~~the provisions of~~ this Subsection. The aims and  
2 purposes of the driver education and training program shall be to educate drivers to  
3 be competent and to develop: a knowledge of those provisions of the law of this state  
4 relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper acceptance of personal  
5 responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation of the causes, seriousness, and  
6 consequences of traffic accidents, and ~~to develop~~ the knowledge, attitudes, habits,  
7 and skills necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles. The course shall  
8 include training on railroad and highway grade crossing safety and on sharing the  
9 road with motorcycles and tractor-trailer trucks and at least thirty minutes of  
10 instruction relative to organ and tissue donation. The State Board of Elementary and  
11 Secondary Education and the state Department of Education shall develop the organ  
12 and tissue portion of the driver education and training program in conjunction with  
13 the federally designated organ procurement organization for the state of Louisiana.  
14 However, no student shall be required to take the organ and tissue donation  
15 instruction if his parent or tutor submits a written statement indicating that such  
16 instruction conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. R.S. 32:402.1(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

19 §402.1. Driver education; required

20 \* \* \*

21 D. ~~No~~ Except as provided in R.S. 17:270(A), no person under the age of  
22 fifteen shall be allowed to enroll or participate in any driver education course or  
23 driver training program.

24 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2009; if vetoed by the governor  
25 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
26 2009, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Pope

HB No. 176

**Abstract:** Permits a child who is in at least the ninth grade and is less than 15 yrs. of age to participate in the classroom instruction component of the driver education and training program operated by BESE and the state Dept. of Education.

Present law (R.S.17:270(A)) requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the state Dept. of Education (in consultation with the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections) to establish and operate a driver education and training program in each parish for children who are 15 years of age and older. Specifies that the program shall consist of a course of not less than eight hours of actual driving experience and 30 hours of classroom instruction.

Proposed law retains present law and provides additionally that a child who is in at least the ninth grade and is less than 15 years of age may participate in the classroom instruction component of the program.

Present law (R.S. 32:402.1(D)), relative to requirements for driver education courses, prohibits any person under the age of 15 from being allowed to enroll or participate in any driver education course or driving training program. Proposed law retains present law prohibition with the exception of a child as specified in proposed law above.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Amends R.S. 17:270(A) and R.S. 32:402.1(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Exempts a child as specified in proposed law from present law prohibition on any person under the age of 15 being allowed to enroll or participate in any driver education course or driving training program.